

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminary to the issuance of an Office Action in the present application and in response to the Official Action of January 11, 2008.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 9, and 11 have been amended. No further claims have been added or canceled. No amendment to the specification has been made.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US patent 6,430,526 to Toll.

Claim 1, the sole independent claim, recites a project design method for automating a control sequence in a configurable system with a plurality of components, wherein the components can exchange at regular time intervals during the control sequence information with another component via communication relationships. Exactly one system project design from a plurality of system project designs is selected with the system, based on a topology and a functionality of the components communicated to the system by a user input. The selected system project design contains exactly one component project design for each component of the system. The method further includes designing each of the components in the system according to the corresponding component project design; and causing each of the components to implement the communication relationships to the other components according to the component project design of the particular component. The method then tests the communication relationships to the other components and, if the communication relationships to the other components are successfully established, transmits a confirmation message to a central unit and resumes normal operation upon receipt of an activation command from the central unit. If the communication relationships to the other components has errors, an error message is transmitted to the central unit.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0037] and [0038] of the originally filed specification which in conjunction with FIG. 4 describe in detail testing of the communication relationships and generation of an error signal.

Toll discloses a computing system for processing a topology description language that describes an environment with various electronic components. Applicant has carefully reviewed the Toll patent, but was unable to find any teaching or suggestion in Toll that the method of the invention, as recited in amended claim 1, performs:

*"testing the communication relationships to the other components and, if the communication relationships to the other components are successfully established, transmitting a confirmation message to a central unit and, upon receipt of an activation command from the central unit, resuming normal operation, and
if the communication relationships to the other components has errors, transmitting an error message to the central unit,"*

For the reasons set forth above, it is applicant's contention that Toll neither teaches nor suggests the features of the present invention, as recited in claim 1.

As for the rejection of dependent claims 3, 4, and 6-14, these claims depend on claim 1, share its presumably allowable features, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that these claims should also be allowed.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is considered patentably differentiated over the prior art of record and believed to be in immediate conditions for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are thus respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels

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that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Henry M. Feiereisen
Agent for Applicant
Reg. No. 31,084

Date: April 3, 2008
350 Fifth Avenue
Suite 4714
New York, N.Y. 10118
(212) 244-5500
HMF/WS:af